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# ENDLESS CAVERNS

WONDERFUL  
AND  
SPECTACULAR

NEW MARKET  
VIRGINIA

*Gateway to Fairyland*

L.C.



# ENDLESS CAVERNS

WONDERFUL AND SPECTACULAR

NEW MARKET, VIRGINIA

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IN THE HEART OF THE

SHENANDOAH VALLEY

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S47E5

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# The Historic Shenandoah Valley



THE VALLEY, because of its natural beauty, was named by the Indians Shenandoah—the Daughter of the Stars. It lies in the northwestern part of Virginia between the Blue Ridge on the east and the Alleghenies on the west, beginning near Staunton and extending in a northeasterly direction to the Potomac Water Gap at Harper's Ferry. Through it, from Winchester to Staunton, runs that splendid thoroughfare known since its charter was granted in 1837 as "The Great Valley Pike," and now part of the Lee Highway. Local traffic and tourist travel pour through the Valley over this great roadway all the year round, and there are few tours in this country which offer more varied interests and pleasure to the traveler.

This famous Valley, as the frontier of the Colonies which experienced the horrors of Indian massacres; as the battle ground of the French and Indian War; as the point from which Daniel Morgan conducted operations against the British in the Revolution; and later as the scene of Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign and of Sheridan's ride, will ever be a region of interest to Americans.

The scenery of the Valley is very beautiful. One approaches it through the mighty gateway of Harper's Ferry, where the Potomac River, breaking through the Blue Ridge, joins the Shenandoah, and the road, dropping to the river level, climbs and climbs again until from the top of the towering cliff it looks down upon the confluence of the two great rivers. The Valley Pike proper begins at Winchester and winds delightfully along the broad and fertile slopes of the Valley, the serrated line of the Alleghenies, blue against the sky on the west, the Blue

Ridge escarpment on the east, while about half-way down the Valley the singular, short range called the Massanutten rises abruptly and parallel to the other ranges, its rugged masses and sharp precipices in dramatic contrast to the grave and quiet sky line of the Blue Ridge.

Extensive apple orchards are numerous, their long, converging lines of trees disappearing over the top of some far hill as if they had no end. In winter, their branches make lace tracery against a powdering of snow; in spring, the whole Valley is an ecstasy of pink and white blossoms; in summer, it is an expanse of living green and yellowing grain; in autumn, the harvested fields are gold and russet, the mountains flame in purple, gold and crimson, and wear blue veils of mist; the apples hang red and glowing on the boughs or lie in gleaming heaps at the foot of the trees, "As in those fabled orchards where the fruits were jewels."

Many clear springs and swift running brooks and streams, hurrying to join the river, do their part for that fertility which has given the Valley its so thrilling and tragical place in history. Rich in fruit and grain, live stock, grist mills, all the necessities for the support of an army, it was well called the "Granary of the Confederacy." Possessed by the Confederates, desired by the Federal Army, the Valley became the campaigning ground, the Great Valley Pike the beaten track of both armies, the scene of much brilliant strategy and many hard fought battles, and suffered at the close of the war an almost complete devastation. "The only grist-mill that was not burned when Sheridan's Army went through" is still pointed out to the traveler.

Pleasant towns and villages lie not far apart along the smooth track of the Valley Pike, and of these the most notable in American history may be briefly listed. Markers placed by the Government at many points along the way, give accounts of the battles fought and the troops engaged.



## HARPER'S FERRY, W. VA.

Harper's Ferry, while alternately held by both armies and of great strategic importance during the Civil War, is commonly associated with the memories of John Brown. A monument, marking the site of the old John Brown Fort, near the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad station, may be seen from the highway entering the Valley.

## CHARLESTOWN, W. VA.

Because of the similarity in pronunciation, this place is frequently mistaken for Charleston, the capital of West Virginia.

It was in Charlestown that John Brown was tried, sentenced and hanged. The courthouse in which his trial took place is still standing on Main Street.

Near this town is a cave where, it is said, George Washington with other prominent men held Masonic meetings.

## BERRYVILLE, VA.

An old town, notable for the number of beautiful residences, dating back to the beginning of the nineteenth century and close of the eighteenth. Second from the corner where the Harper's Ferry road turns at a right angle into the Winchester Pike, stands an interesting old stone house, built in 1810, which was used by General Sheridan as a hospital during the Civil War. "Audley," the home of the Custis family and the scene of the marriage of Nellie Custis, favorite niece of George Washington, is a short distance outside of Berryville.

## WINCHESTER, VA.

This is the second oldest city in Virginia. It was here that George Washington, after Braddock's defeat, built Fort Loudoun and established his headquarters during the French and Indian War. The house which he occupied is still standing at the corner of Cork and Braddock Streets.

General Daniel Morgan, of Revolutionary fame, is buried here.

Just north of Winchester, the tourist will see on a high knoll among a clump of trees to the west, the remains of the old "Star Fort," one of several fortifications near by that figured in many of the fiercest engagements of the Civil War, and the grim landmark of those battles may bring more vividly to his thoughts the war history of the country he is traversing.

During the Civil War Winchester was fought over more than any other community; it is said to have changed hands seventy-two times. Here Stonewall Jackson, recognized as the greatest military strategist of his day, defeated General Banks. General Jackson's headquarters may be seen immediately north of the Public Library. Here is still standing the house where William McKinley, then a soldier in the Union Army, afterward President of the United States, was initiated into the Masonic Order. Later in the war General Sheridan maintained his headquarters in the house now used as the Elks' Home, and from this point began his famous ride to the Cedar Creek battlefield.

## KERNSTOWN, VA.

This is the place where General Jackson and General Shields fought a drawn battle which is notable as being the only battle ever engaged in by troops under Stonewall Jackson's command, in which they were not victorious. The battle field, lying to the west, may be viewed from the Valley Pike.



## MIDDLETOWN, VA.

The Federal Army while retreating from Strasburg, after its left flank had been turned at Front Royal by General Jackson, suffered severe losses at Middletown when attacked by Ashby's cavalry.

## STRASBURG, VA.

At Strasburg, located on the great Lee Highway, begin the Massanutten Mountains which, rising abruptly and extending parallel to the Blue Ridge as far south as Harrisonburg, divide the valley into two almost equal parts. Flowing through the two parts are the north and south forks of the Shenandoah River which unite near this point.

Strasburg, due to its location, commanded the entrance to both halves of the Valley and, therefore, became a strategic centre in Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign which he initiated by compelling General Banks to evacuate the town.

Later in the war, at Cedar Creek, a stream north of Strasburg flowing into the north fork of the Shenandoah River, Confederate troops under General Early surprised and routed the Federal forces under General Sheridan. Sheridan was at the time in Winchester, twenty miles away. General Early, seeing Sheridan's army shattered and retreating northward in complete disorder, did not think it necessary to pursue them further. But General Sheridan, dashing toward Cedar Creek, in the wild ride now famous in history and poetry, met his demoralized troops, rallied them all along the line, and leading them, returned to decisively defeat General Early, his defeat ending the efforts on the part of the Confederacy to invade the North by way of the Shenandoah Valley.

A few miles south of the town, with its base washed by a branch of the Shenandoah, is Fisher's Hill. This place was the scene of an action between General Sheridan's and General Early's troops, preliminary to the decisive battle of Cedar Creek.

#### WOODSTOCK, EDINBURG, MT. JACKSON, VA.

Woodstock, the county seat of Shenandoah County, with its sister towns, Edinburg and Mt. Jackson, marked as isolated trading posts a part of the western frontier of Virginia, in the days when the Valley was a wilderness spotted here and there with traders' settlements and Indian camps.

During the French and Indian War the territory around these three towns was the scene of repeated and bloody massacres and constant warfare.

Many traces of still earlier habitation are to be found in this region, and many evidences of gruesome warfare between the Indian tribes themselves, long before the day of the Pioneer. At Redbanks Farm, a few miles north of Mt. Jackson, is a great mound filled with the skeletons of a whole tribe exterminated by a war party of Indians from North Carolina, and throughout this part of the Valley there exist many Indian mounds and other historic traces of much interest to the ethnologist and archaeologist.

#### NEW MARKET, VA.

New Market is one of the oldest and most beautifully situated towns in the Valley. The north fork of the Shenandoah River flows behind a range of hills that rises high above the town to the northwest. To the southeast flows Smith's Creek, a winding mill stream at the foot of the Massanutten Mountains.



Before the arrival of the white man, this spot was a favorite Indian camping ground and well into the nineteenth century the smoke from their tepees could be seen rising from Indian Hollow, a ravine to the north, which is visible from the Pike.

Looking toward the Massanuttiens one sees the gap through which Stonewall Jackson marched his army to Front Royal, where, by a surprise attack, he turned Banks' left flank, thereby starting a retreat of the Federal Army which did not end until it had crossed the Potomac at Harper's Ferry.

In the battle of New Market, which was fought along the northwestern edge of the town, occurred the charge of the V. M. I. Cadets, one of the most remarkable episodes of the Civil War. This battalion of boys, from fourteen to twenty years of age, was ordered from school at Lexington, Va. to join the forces of General Breckenridge, in a desperate crisis of the latest months of the war. Arriving in New Market at night after a three days march, they were placed in the battle line the next morning where for several hours they held their position under heavy artillery fire and against infantry attacks. At the decisive moment of the battle these boys, rising as a unit, charged across an open wheat field and, in spite of severe losses in killed and wounded, broke the Federal lines, turning what had seemed to be a defeat into victory.

In New Market lives the lady who, in that time of horror, so organized the care of this boys' army and carried on the nursing and relief work for them in those days that knew no Red Cross, that she received and still proudly bears the title of "Mother of the V. M. I."

Among other points of interest is a three-inch shell lodged in an old post standing in front of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. General Breckenridge and his staff were only a few yards away when this shell struck. Fortunately for the Confederates it failed to explode.

A large proportion of the houses now in New Market were standing during the War and many of them still bear the marks of shell fire.

#### HARRISONBURG, VA.

Harrisonburg, located at the southern end of the Massanutten Mountains, is the county seat of Rockingham County, one of the three richest counties in the United States in value of agricultural products.

It was near this point that Stonewall Jackson, after his long retreat from Harper's Ferry, turned suddenly upon the pursuing Union Armies and defeated Fremont at Cross Keys and a few days later Shields at Port Republic. This was the culmination of the Valley Campaign. It was in a rear-guard action preceding the fight at Cross Keys that Jackson suffered the irreparable loss of his renowned cavalry leader, General Turner Ashby.

#### STAUNTON, VA.

From its importance as a strategic point, Staunton became the objective of many campaigns in the Civil War, but was not occupied by the Union troops until June, 1864, when General Hunter entered the place without opposition and, after destroying the railroad several miles east and west and burning much public property and many warehouses, marched toward Lynchburg. It was again occupied and further damaged by Sheridan's cavalry in March, 1865. Present day history centers its interest in the brick parsonage of the First Presbyterian Church where Woodrow Wilson was born.



# The Endless Caverns of New Market

## Wonderful and Spectacular

*“Caves have aroused profound admiration in the human mind and heart through all the ages, and have been the nucleus around which have been woven many beautiful and delightful legends and superstitions. Caves were the habitations of oracles, sibyls and nymphs in ancient mythology, and were dwelling places of the fairies in nursery rhyme, and one can well imagine these myths all to be true when contemplating the marvelous beauty which nature has so wondrously wrought in the Endless Caverns of New Market.”*

### HISTORY

On the 1st of October, 1879, two boys, with their dog, chased a rabbit up the slopes of a hill pasture on the farm of Reuben Zirkle, four miles from New Market. The rabbit disappeared under a heap of boulders. The boys moved the rocks in an effort to find the rabbit, and found instead the entrance to a great shaft leading into the mountainside at a steep angle. How the discovery led to ever deeper explorations into a treasure-house of wonder and beauty is a matter of local history. By the dim light of candles, creeping through low passages, reaching out in the dark to find themselves on the brink of some deep chasm—in danger often, but always in wonder and delight, explorations went on for a long time. No terminal was ever found to the winding channels and vast open spaces that honeycomb the mountain, so the place was named The Endless Caverns of New Market and rightfully holds the title yet.



*Where Caverns Road Joins the Valley Pike*



All the country-side came to see the marvel. An entrance house was built of pine; wooden ladders and slight wooden bridges made the difficult ways more passable. There were picnics and exploring parties, dances in the great hall called Alexander's Ball-Room, where the fiddlers sat high upon a great block of stone hollowed into the semblance of a sleigh, and the room was lighted by iron circles hung from the roof and set with many candles.

Deep, deep in the ground, one day exploring candles lighted up a miracle. A miniature lake of clearest water lay in a low, deep cleft, roofed and floored and columned with white, glittering crystal. The Diamond Lake in the Endless Caverns of New Market was a sight worth all the dangerous climbing that it cost. Hundreds came to see it on "Illuminating Days," and people who saw that fairy vision in their youth remember it yet with an awe and delight that approaches poetry. At the marriage of the owner's daughter, in 1888, a heap of the snowy crystals formed a centerpiece for the wedding table. All the Valley knew of the Diamond Lake at the heart of the Endless Caverns.

But travel, in those days, was infrequent and slow; roads were bad; candles and the magnesium flare the only lighting; illuminating days were few. After some years the wooden ladders and entrance house fell into disrepair, and for more than thirty years the locks and hinges on the sagging doors rusted in their sockets and no one entered the Endless Caverns.

### IMPROVEMENTS

But in 1919 the story of the Lake of Diamonds caught the ear of a motor party, stopping in New Market for an hour's rest on the beautiful journey from Atlanta to Washington. In

August, 1919, the Caverns became the property of Mr. Edward T. Brown and his son, Mr. Edward M. Brown, and on August 14, 1920, the Endless Caverns of New Market were again opened to the public, improved with every aid to beauty and safety that modern invention can supply. A macadam road has been built from the Valley Pike to Smith's Creek, just opposite the entrance to Caverns Farm. Here, high above the old ford, impassable in wet weather, which had been the only means of crossing, a bridge of steel and rock has been constructed, connecting the public road with the excellent private road leading from the bridge directly to the Cavern entrance on the western slope of a cedar-crowned hill, commanding a beautiful view of the Valley. A few hundred feet beyond the bridge a garage with supplies and facilities for minor repairs is ready for any cars that may require its services. Also a parking place has been laid out on the broad, shaded plateau at the top of Cavern Hill where refreshments, rest rooms and every convenience will be available.

From the beginning, it has been the aim to allow no artificial element to spoil the original charm of the place. The old entrance house, torn down, has been replaced by a unique cave house, built of limestone boulders from the mountainside, not even the moss removed from the surface of the rocks. Jagged, rugged, natural, yet artistic, blending into the lines and colors of the mountain, curiously beckoning, the little house seems luring one into the kingdom of underground wonders. A wood fire glows warmly in the fireplace, great gates of hand-wrought iron bar the head of the stone stairway leading downward, three lanterns hang from the arch of the stone roof above the shaft, and accurately placed at exactly the center of the top of the entrance is a huge boulder in the shape of a keystone—set there a thousand thousand years ago by the hand of the Architect of All the Earth.



The old wood in the Caverns, when they were re-opened, was almost hidden by glistening heaps of mold, like masses of spun glass, and stairways, railings and ladders fell to pieces at a touch. These have been replaced by solid stairways cut from the rock and formation itself. The safety walls built along the edges of dangerous chasms have been quarried also from the actual fabric of the cave, and seem almost a natural part of it. Floors of low galleries have been blasted out, "Fat Man's Miseries" have been generously widened, so that the visitor passes from one great cavern to another through the connecting passages with perfect ease and safety.

### ILLUMINATION

When the command was given "Let there be light," there dawned upon the universe an eternal source of wonder and inspiration. Form and color clothed the earth as it emerged into beauty. In the darkness underground were wonders and beauties too, but only the flickering light of the miner's lamp or the explorer's candle had dimly disclosed them, till electricity, brought down from the skies and flaming along the course of endless filaments, made the illumination possible of Nature's secret handiwork, hoarded in darkness for a thousand centuries.

Electricity is named but not known. Even Edison, wizard of electricity, cannot explain its mystery. Some scientists have called it "stored-up sunshine." How fitting that "stored-up sunshine" should reveal the stored-up beauty of the Endless Caverns!

In all that has been done to develop and display these beauties, one of the principal factors is the electrical indirect lighting system. Mr. Phinehas V. Stephens, Consulting Engineer, of New York City, says of himself, that while observing the Caverns by candle





*Cave Hill and Entrance House*



light, he became inspired with a vision. This vision has been realized by Mr. Stephens, with infinite time, care, patience and study, in what is probably the most beautiful subterranean illumination in the world. The wonderful variety of form, color and arrangement in the stalactite and stalagmite formations is exquisitely displayed by floods of radiance, while the sources of illumination are almost entirely concealed.

A modern power plant was erected near the foot of Cavern Hill, and an electric cable distribution system designed and installed according to the most advanced principles of efficiency and safety. Over seven miles of lead-covered cable have been employed to carry the wires into every recess of the Caverns thus far open to visitors. For the sake of beauty as well as safety, these cables are carried overhead or sunken in the ground along the trail. More than five hundred lights, with a total capacity of several thousand candle-power, are already in use, and the number is being increased constantly as new rooms of wonders are opened and prepared for public display. Already a second power plant, five times as powerful as the first, is being installed, and the smaller plant will serve as an auxiliary.



*The Frozen Cascades*



# A DESCRIPTION OF SOME OF THE ROOMS AND PASSAGES

*Arranged from a description written in 1880 by David S. Henkel*

From the Entrance House we easily descend, by means of a stone stairway, into the ante-room called

## ERDA'S CAVE

We look, gaze, wonder and are lost amid inexpressible delight, and at the same time experience a painful lack of diction with which to express our new-born sensations. These peculiar impressions arise from a want of familiar similitudes with which to liken the strange objects by which we are surrounded.

Going through the Passage of the Winds, cooled by breezes which unceasingly freshen the air of the Caverns, we enter

## THE TREE GROTTO

This room is long and narrow and contains some interesting formations. Trees roots growing down from the surface, entering the Caverns through the hollows in the stalactites, and dangling from the ceiling, give the room its name.

We then proceed through the Rose Corridor, the Milky Way and Rocky Pass to

## THE MITTEN ROOM

Here we find an immense rock which at a remote period was precipitated to the floor, called the Band Table; over this is suspended a great stone mitten. The ceiling and mural decorations

are strikingly beautiful. An odd formation in one alcove is a caveman's bath tub and just beyond is the Menagerie filled with the likenesses of various animals. Leaving the Menagerie, we are suddenly halted at the brink of a deep chasm across which is seen

### THE GRAND CANYON

This is the first of the great spectacular views in the Caverns. Descending into the Canyon by the Giant Stairs we reach the second level of the Caverns and, going through Raleigh Pass and the Hindoo Temple, with its exquisite frescoed ceiling, enter

### SKYLAND

In the opinion of many visitors, Skyland is the crowning picture setting of the Caverns. Heavenly tints fading in the distance, glorious rays dancing in play with hidden lights, recall in a moment the lovely skies we all remember. Thence we ascend steps, cut out of the natural formation, into the Strait and Narrow Way leading to

### THE MARINE CORRIDOR

This gallery presents unique water formations on its floor. At the far end is Chattahoochee Falls, near which are seen the scratches of a bear that, in ages gone by, doubtless traversed these subterranean vaults. It is quite a mystery, and will probably remain so, how this animal effected its ingress, since the only opening yet discovered is far too small to admit a body of such great proportions. The skeleton of this animal was found on a ledge farther back in the Caverns. Next we enter



## THE ALPINE PASS

This, for picturesque scenery, tall ceilings, deep ravines, immense boulders and grand avalanches, is unsurpassed by anything in the underground world. Going through this mountainous region we see Neptune's Throne and Niobe dissolving herself into tears. We then emerge into

## YOSEMITE VALLEY

The scenery here is wild and romantic and large boulders lie heaped in massive piles. There are few formations in this room and little to attract those who expect to find a stalactite or stalagmite at every turn or corner in a cave. It is such variety that makes this one of the most interesting and wonderful caves yet discovered.

Passing under a grand chandelier into a narrow but quite short avenue, we enter

## ALEXANDER'S BALL ROOM

This is a spacious room with ceiling handsomely proportioned. There are few stalactites on the ceiling, which is arched of solid limestone rock, and presents the appearance of antiquated frescoing. On the left of the entrance is a sleigh which is quite perfectly formed. Close by is seen an immense weeping willow growing out, as it were, of a clearly defined bed of a stream which has long since deserted this room. On the right is a stupendous hanging rock, irregular in form and measuring ninety feet in circumference. This hanging pyramid, whose base adheres to the ceiling, strikes all who visit these Caverns with astonishment. Here the philosopher



*The Sleigh and Weeping Willow Falls*



may vainly stretch his theories into threadbare problems of thought, and still not solve the mysteries which cling around this seemingly inverted law of nature.

Adjoining the Ball Room is

### SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

Here, on the left of the entrance, we see the Celestial Window. A few paces farther we may look into the Queen's Retreat, a beautiful little room with a snow white floor, difficult of access. On the right are the finely moulded Twin Columns which handsomely adorn the temple. From this room there is now being constructed a stone stairway leading down to Lethe's Stream. From the level of this stream, looking upward a distance of more than ninety feet, between immense columns of stone, persons above are plainly visible, whilst down at our feet is a large brook, whose loud, rippling waters gladly greet us; a brook as clear as crystal, and so sweet and refreshing are its waters that we think the name quite appropriate.

Looking from the Temple there appears in the distance, against the sky line, a castle built on a high cliff. After a few moments pause we continue our tour through

### EATON PASS

This pass was named for Robert A. Eaton, in commemoration of his great work on the passageways which make the wonders of these Caverns easily and safely accessible. To the left is the Gnome's Home. It is so called because it seems that some weird being has been at work here forming wonders too strange for description. At the end of the pass, through an arched doorway, we enter

## NEPTUNE'S GROTTO

This is a most handsome cluster of bronze and pink columns surrounding Undine's Fountain. On the right, but a short distance, is the Devil's Hole, an immense chasm of forbidding appearance; at the same time our anxiety is only increased, as we gaze into its dark vaults, by the utter impossibility of exploring its hidden wonders. Looking over the edge of a steep precipice we see far below Neptune's Lake.

We then pass through Lover's Lane into

## THE CATHEDRAL

This room contains handsome representations of cloisters, adorned with massive pillars, while near the entrance the grand pulpit, encircled with fluted columns, suggests the peculiar fitness of the name it bears. The large bell, which is located at the opposite end of the room, rings out mournful sounds when struck with a stone.

Outside the Cathedral is the Fountain of Youth. Passing on we see Mount Vesuvius in eruption and to the left the Pool of Narcissus, which looks more like a mirror than like water. Thence through the Lake Grotto and the Pass of Thermopylae to

## THE ARCTIC CIRCLE

Here we find formations of variegated colors, brown, pink and white. We see the Melting Column, and near by the Snow Drift which for its beauty and perfect resemblance to an immense heap of snow is unsurpassed either by nature or by art. Farther on are a number of waterfalls



which appear to have been so suddenly frozen as to retain the perfect form of the living cataract.

*“The cataract, that like a giant wroth,  
Rushed down impetuously, as seized at once  
By sudden frost, with all his hoary locks  
Stood still.”*

The visitor should move slowly and take a careful survey of this, the grandest field for observation and study in the Caverns. Far up on the right may be seen a series of formations, rich in color, many of which resemble beautifully frosted or stained glass.

After going through Dante's Inferno and Natural Bridge Pass, we find ourselves in

### THE UNNAMED ROOM

Observing the great variety of formations in this room, we understand why no one has yet suggested an appropriate name. Among the odd similitudes which arouse our interest are totem poles, curiously decorated, with groups of Esquimaux nearby; and the Hunchback of Notre Dame crouched outside the Cathedral. The room is also decorated with heavy draperies hanging from the ceiling. Just beyond is

### STEPHENS HALL

Named for Phinehas V. Stephens, whose genius conceived and whose ability perfected the plan of concealed wires and hidden lamps which removes from our minds all thought of the artificial and leaves us to enjoy the superb coloring and impressive architecture of these Caverns in their natural state.

The stalagmites in this hall are small and of the most interesting character. They are located principally on shelving rocks and resemble pygmies in a scattered and dismayed condition. Here we also see Cleopatra's Needle.

Passing between two large stalagmites which form the Gateway to Fairyland we walk along

### THE RAVINE OF ENDLESS TROUBLES

Our attention is at once attracted by the white formations, some of which resemble miniature statuary, particularly the figures of a bride and groom standing before the altar. As we proceed, the different colored stones, beautifully blended and ornamented with the most lovely tapestry, impose so completely upon the senses that it is difficult to believe that it is not wholly the work of the most tasteful designer.

Turning abruptly from the main passage, which leads on to underground regions never yet trod by the foot of man, we approach through a narrow, winding way

### THE DIAMOND LAKE

Here the beauties of these Caverns reach a climax. Like the scenes of a well arranged drama, they have been increasing all the while, until now they attain the zenith of their grandeur and sublimity. The ceiling seems to have lowered itself, so that the delicately formed stalactites might meet their kindred groups below. Rosettes are formed on the top of the water where this union is effected. The water is perfectly clear and is held in a basin of diamonds. When light is thrown upon it, myriads of stars shoot out dazzling rays, while the roof is fretted with transparent brilliancies, all making a picture which words can never describe.



“I have seen and admired the workmanship of the cultured architect; I have gazed upon the paintings of the most skillful artists, and have seen the shadow vieing in almost successful struggles with the natural substance; I have stood on the beach and looked out upon the blue waters of the sea, and have seen undulating waves studded with the golden trinkets of a noon day’s sun; but never did richer beauties or more dazzling charms greet my eyes than those I beheld in this lake—the Home of the Fairies, the Haven of the Nymphs.”

### THE PALACE OF THE FAIRIES

Undisturbed, because unreached by the dim rays of lantern and candle light, the spaces to the left of the Diamond Lake lay hidden in darkness through the years, until one day electricity revealed the exquisite entrance, the arched hallways and sparkling columns of the Palace of the Fairies.

Leaving the Palace of the Fairies we return to the main passage whence we begin our journey towards the Entrance House. A few paces ahead our attention is arrested by an almost perfect cross on the ceiling of a large passage called the Vista of Calvary. As we go on there comes into view the Moonlight Cascade, immediately beyond which is

### THE HAWAIIAN VILLAGE

Here we see a large number of stalagmites grouped in front of immense columns. These columns are quite stately in appearance. They are of brown and pink colors, partly silvered with gray, with fluting and drapery so hung about them as to suggest the tropical vegetation and native huts of Hawaii.

Winding our way back, we pause in the Arctic Circle for a distant view of the beautiful Snow Drift before proceeding to the detour which leads us through

## THE BROWN ROOM

The entire distance from the main pass to this room is studded with objects of great interest, many of which challenge the wisdom and sagacity of the most learned scientists. On the floor are seen many artistically fluted water receptacles, while other portions of the floor seem to have been formed under the influence of an ebbing and flowing tide.

The formations in this room being mostly of a brown cast have suggested its name, and in many respects it is one of the most handsome rooms in the Caverns. Some of the columns are immense in size and suggest to the mind the architecture of the primitive ages. The stalactites appear in clusters on the plastered ceiling, and vary in color: dark brown, light brown, bronze, rose tint and white, all grouped, as it were, in the same family. Besides these, there are numerous mammillary formations of pure white, with crests of crimson, which nourish the growth of stalagmites dark in color.

In the far corner of the room the formations have shaped themselves into a broad stairway, ascending which we enter a tunnel-like passage. Going on, we emerge unexpectedly, into a room so richly decorated and so gorgeously colored that we stop bewildered. We are in one of Nature's finest art galleries

## THE ORIENTAL PALACE

Whatever may have been expected of beauty, grandeur or sublimity is fully met. Our attention is first focussed by the painting of a lighthouse, set high on the cliffs of a rock-bound coast, with the blue sky stretching away behind it; a painting accomplished in the course of a hundred centuries by Nature, working in impenetrable darkness, with the slow drip of water for her brush and a rock for her canvas.



Moving farther into this room we behold a scene we shall never forget. Immediately beyond, and leading away into the distance, is an endless corridor which, as far as we can see, is filled with forms and shapes so bewitching, and emanating so wild a fusion of color, that we are drawn to it as if impelled by some mysterious force, only to be halted by the indescribable grandeur of another corridor with strange illusions which fairly beckon us to enter. Hesitating, our eyes are attracted to five grand columns which stand proudly grouped against the southern wall. The most beautiful of these, the Crystal Rose Column, stands in rear of the rest as if to withhold its charms from the mere casual observer. An upward glance is met with thousands of glittering stalactites which crowd each other on the ceiling; some are gray of age, while others seem to blush with youthful vigor. On the floor are a number of servile looking objects which have fallen from a more exalted plane or owe their existence to the unconsumed calcareous food of the great army above. Then, for the first time, we perceive in one corner, overlooking the entire room, a kingly throne, protected by an immense arch and beautifully decorated with the richest drapery.

We could spend hours in this enchanted Palace of the Orient, and each moment would lead to another discovery or be filled with some new delight. But further description would be idle. Here Nature's art has attained heights too sublime to be portrayed by the imperfect language of man.

Truly this unique spectacle of the underground world is a befitting end to our journey through the natural wonder of the historic Shenandoah Valley—the Endless Caverns of New Market.

A Book all Lovers of Nature Should Have in Their Library

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ENDLESS CAVERNS

NEW MARKET, VIRGINIA



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# HOW TO REACH THE ENDLESS CAVERNS

## Via Rail

FROM NEW YORK, PHILADELPHIA, BALTIMORE, WASHINGTON—Pennsylvania R. R. or Baltimore & Ohio R. R. to Washington, thence Southern Railway to New Market; or Baltimore & Ohio R. R. to Strasburg Junction (via Harper's Ferry), thence Southern Ry. to New Market.

FROM PITTSBURGH, AKRON, CLEVELAND, WHEELING, PARKERSBURG, CINCINNATI, COLUMBUS—Baltimore & Ohio R. R. to Strasburg Junction (via Harper's Ferry), thence Southern Ry. to New Market.

FROM BUFFALO, ERIE, CLEVELAND, ROCHESTER, HARRISBURG—Pennsylvania R. R. to Washington, thence Southern Ry., to New Market.

FROM NEW HAVEN, HARTFORD, WORCESTER, BOSTON AND ALL NEW ENGLAND POINTS—Via New York, Pennsylvania R. R. or Baltimore & Ohio R. R. to Washington, thence Southern Ry. to New Market; or Baltimore & Ohio R. R. to Strasburg Junction (via Harper's Ferry), thence Southern Ry. to New Market.

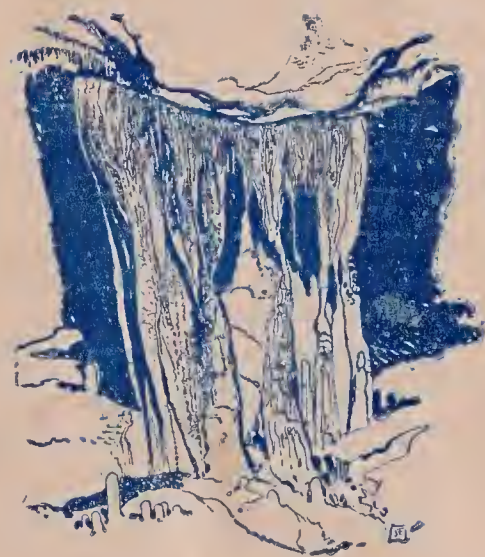
FROM NORFOLK, RICHMOND, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA HOT SPRINGS, WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, CINCINNATI, LOUISVILLE—Chesapeake & Ohio R. R. to Staunton, thence Baltimore & Ohio R. R. to Harrisonburg, thence Southern Ry. to New Market.

FROM BIRMINGHAM, MOBILE, NEW ORLEANS, ATLANTA, CHARLOTTE, DANVILLE, LYNCHBURG—Southern Ry. to New Market (via Manassas.)

Automobiles meet trains to transfer passengers to Endless Caverns.

## Via Motor

ENDLESS CAVERNS are located two miles off the famous Shenandoah Valley Pike, one of the best highways in the country. Excellent roads from all points connect with the Pike at Winchester and Staunton. Consult map on opposite page.



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